

Alamance County Sheriff
TERRY JOHNSON



**CONFEDERATE
GLORY DAYS**



WORLD OF OUR OWN

All images in this zine are from "The Southerner," the yearbook of Southern High School, Alamance County, North Carolina, accessed through the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center.

Alamance Sheriff Terry Johnson attended Southern High, 1965-1969.

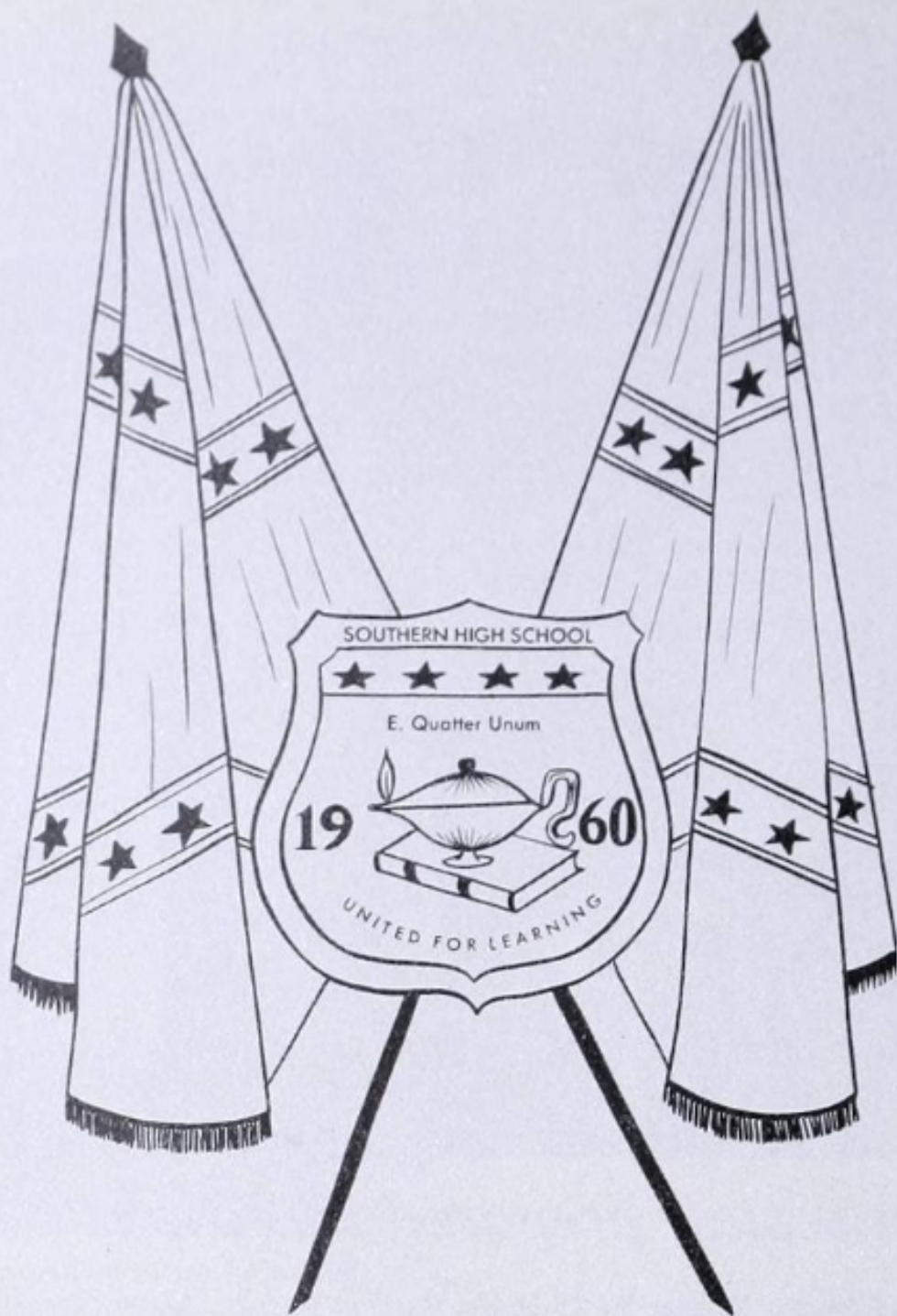
ALMA MATER

Confederates are not born,
they're bred.

Alamance County Sheriff
Terry Johnson's "glory days" at
Southern Alamance High
School were bathed in the
ideology and symbolism of
the cult of the "Lost Cause."
His alma mater used the
nickname "Confederates"
until 1972, changing it only
after integration of Alamance
schools.

Terry Johnson
CO-CAPTAIN





Southern Alamance High opened in 1960, the same year that four brave North Carolina A&T students kicked off a sit-in movement in nearby Greensboro.

Use of Confederate symbols and "moonlight & magnolias" imagery surged across the South during this period, as a response to the civil rights movement. The false narratives of the "Lost Cause" were given new life.





When Southern High School opened in Graham, no official nickname was chosen. Students just casually started using "Confederates." School officials said it would be temporary. But it stuck and was soon adopted.



The Southern High Confederates (just “Confeds” to locals) had a “Johnny Reb” mascot: a student dressed in the gray uniform of the Confederate Army who donned a kepi (hat) and carried a long gun. The mascot accompanied Southern High cheerleaders and was a feature at sporting events and assemblies.



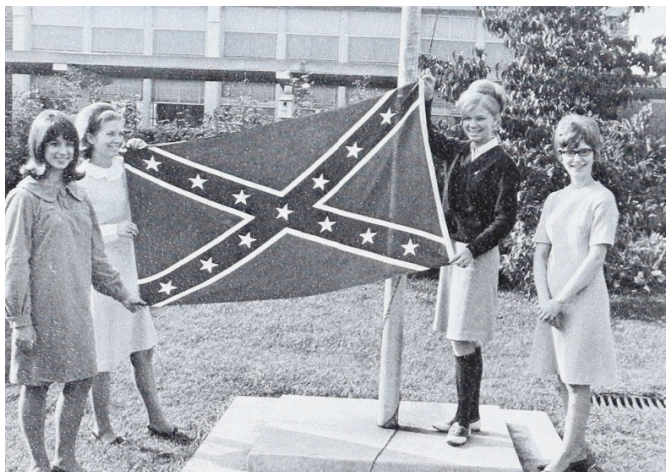
Confed cheerleaders in victory formation.



The “Confeds” sports teams ran onto football fields through giant Confederate Battle Flag banners, or stormed onto basketball courts through columns of cheerleaders waving flags.

AND THE
BAND
PLAYED
“DIXIE.”

There was also a heavy dose of white male patriarchy and "Southern belle" mythology that pervaded the culture of Southern High. Instead of majorettes, there were "Confederettes. There was a co-ed social group called "Southern Belles and Sons." And the annual "Miss Southern" pageant was the centerpiece of the school's social calendar.



Confederettes



*The Splendor of Our
Plantation*

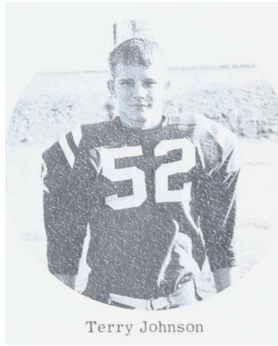


grows through Southern Belles



B M O C

Terry Johnson embraced life as a "Confed" at Southern High. He lettered in varsity football and baseball, served in student government, and participated in several social clubs and extracurricular activities. His future wife, Pat Isley, also attended Southern. They married in 1971.



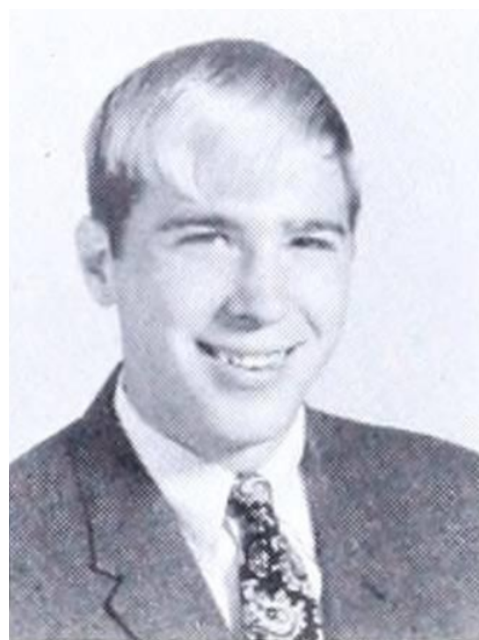
Terry Johnson



Terry Johnson attended Southern High with Gary Williamson, Sr., the father of the founder of Southern Poverty Law Center-designated hate group "Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County." Gary Sr. is also an active ACTBAC member. Johnson has been criticized for coddling and showing preferential treatment to ACTBAC and other local neo-Confederate groups.



Terry
Johnson



Gary
Williamson

Terry Johnson graduated in 1969, the same year of an uprising in nearby Burlington, NC, which started at recently-integrated Walter Williams High School. The spark was that only white students were selected for the school's cheerleading squad. Black students walked out, supported by students from Jordan-Sellers High and local colleges.

The situation escalated. Buildings in downtown Burlington burned. The National Guard was called in. Late on the night of May 16th, police murdered an unarmed 15-year-old Black boy, Leon Mebane, who had come out to look at the ruins of a local corner store that had been burned earlier that night. He was shot 17 times by police.

**Partly Cloudy, Warm Tonight
And Sunday. See Roundup
On Page 4-B.**

**PRICE
19 CENTS**

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UPI TELEPHOTO SERVICE
NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.
NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ALLIANCE

BURLINGTO

County Under Curf

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Black Youth Killed In

Store Gutted In Fire Bombing

A 15-year-old black youth was killed here last night, in the midst of racial violence which included fire bombings, numerous sniping incidents and acts of violence.

Killed in a confrontation with local police and agents of the State Bureau of Investigation was Leon Mebane, a black student at Turrentine Junior High School, who was the son of Williard Mebane and Zenobia Mebane of 419 Fulton St.

Several other persons received gunshot wounds last night, but no one else was seriously hurt.

Law enforcement officers also received minor injuries, not requiring hospitalization, after hit by rocks, bricks and bottles thrown by blacks.

Today at noon, however, police reported that calm had continued in the city since sunrise.

A total of 25 persons was arrested last night and early today by law enforcement officials who patrolled the city in riot gear. They encountered a number of gun battles with snipers and reported that an undetermined amount of vandalism was done, including damage to several city vehicles.

After disturbances ended this morning at 4:30 o'clock, streets in the black section, particularly the Raubut Street area were

York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Delaware, among other places.

Whether these persons are directly connected with the unrest is not known. However, several black leaders have made it a point to mention that there are many outsiders in the area.

The violence reached such proportions, between 9:55 p.m. last night and 4:30 a.m. today that it was necessary to mobilize some 150 National Guard troops from the 130th Signal Battalion in Burlington, Siler City and Durham. Approximately 100 State Highway Patrolmen also joined Burlington Police to quell the violence. SBI agents, members of the auxiliary division of the police department, North Carolina Department of Correction, ABC officers, and the Alamance County Sheriffs Depart-



Result Of Friday

Country Grocery on Rauhut Street was gutted by flames last night during an outburst of several hours in which bottles and bricks were hurled and officers and snipers exchanged gunfire. One Negro, Leon Mebane, was killed as police converged on

IMES-NEWS

Times-News Family
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23,000

Reaching More Than 21,000
Alamance County Homes
With 85,000 Readers

ON, N. C., SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1969

AP AND KING FEATURE SERVICE
WOMEN'S NEWS SERVICE
UPI STOCK SERVICE
ASSOCIATION AFTERNOON DAILIES

28 PAGES
3 SECTIONS

ew—8 P.M.-6 A.M.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ n Night Of Violence



y Night Rioting

this store early this morning. As a result, the city is under a curfew from 8 o'clock tonight until 6 o'clock tomorrow morning. (Times-News Photo by Ed McCauley).

Curfew In Effect Until Removed

Alamance County and all of its municipalities will enter a curfew starting at 8 o'clock tonight and continuing until 6 o'clock Sunday morning. It will be determined tomorrow whether or not the curfew will be extended to include tomorrow night.

This was determined this morning after Burlington Mayor W. L. Beamon and members of the City Council issued a proclamation declaring the curfew to start tonight.

Chairman R. Homer Andrews of the County Board of Commissioners then declared the curfew for the Alamance County area. This was followed by similar action from Mayor Myron Rhyne of Graham and Mayor Marvin Grant of Elon College, as well as Mayor Jack Phelps of Mebane.

all law enforcement officers and national guardsmen for the way they handled the situation.

The night of violence left a 15-year-old black junior high school student dead, several people injured, and damages to personal and public property. There also were two fires.

After Mayor Beamon and the council took its action, discussion was held with other nearby municipalities, which followed the lead after County Chairman Andrews gave his order.

A review of the curfew will come tomorrow by those who will decide whether or not it will be lifted. For the present, however, it remains in effect until further notice.

Under a curfew, it means that all people are forbidden:

1. To be seen or to travel upon any public street, alley or roadway or upon public property, unless in search for medical assistance, food, or

Another Story on Page 1-B.

It means that all persons are required to remain in their homes, offices or businesses during the curfew hours unless they are specifically authorized to be seen on a street or highway. Unauthorized persons found violating the curfew are subject to arrest.

All schools in Burlington will resume their schedules Monday morning without interruption, according to Dr. Brank Proffitt, superintendent.

A contingent of national

After the Burlington uprisings, local school officials sought to ease tensions and, in 1971, moved to change the Confederates nickname at Southern High School. Parents of white students formed a "Concerned Confederates" group to oppose the move.

Southern High Issue

Parents' Group Defends Stand

GRAHAM — A committee of 12 adults representing the Concerned Confederates today defended their position in the Southern High School nickname controversy and vowed to stand for what they believed.

The one-page statement was in reply to a statement made yesterday by the Southern High School Advisory Council.

The council called for support of the school administration, which dropped the name, Confederates, and explained the reasons for its position.

Apparently the Concerned Confederates took part of the council's statement as criticism.

The comments from the committee representing the Confederate organization were as follows:

"We the committee of the Concerned Confederates would like to say that we are not irresponsible people nor are we racists as some would have you believe. We are responsible concerned citizens who do not like the way our school is being run. This means that we cannot compromise with wrong. We in-

tend to stand up for right and this includes the right of students to vote on any nickname of their choice.

"Just because the majority of the advisory council agrees to support Mr. Stockard does not make his actions any more right than they were at the start. We feel that Mr. Stockard has made a wrong decision and we would like for him to correct it.

"Two wrongs have never made a right.

"There will be no disruption or violence in the school if the principal and the county board of education will simply not tolerate it. Tell the ones causing a disturbance that the administration will not put up with it. This is what they did when the white students objected to the dropping of

See PARENTS on Page 16-C

Third Ballot Required

Patriots Is Selected As Southern Nickname

GRAHAM — Southern High School students, by casting ballots, yesterday, selected Patriots as the new school nickname.

The new nickname was selected on the third ballot over the students' second choice, Red Raiders. A number of students, despite instruction that Confederates would not be considered, cast votes in all three ballots for the school's former nickname.

Southern Principal Robert Stockard this morning addressed students briefly, pointing out that the vote and the selection of a new nickname by the students "is an end of the controversy" which started last fall with the elimination of the school's use of Confederates.

The new nickname was selected over nine other choices and 10 other names suggested through write-ins. Had a write-in been in suf-

ficient number to effect the election, it would have gone before the student council for consideration. None of the write-in votes were in sufficient number, however, to be considered.

On the third ballot, Patriots netted 364 votes, while Red Raiders received 244. A total of 233 votes were cast for write-in choices.

There were 216 ineligible votes cast for Confederates in the first balloting, 279 in the second.

The names eliminated yesterday, in addition to Red Raiders, include the following: All Stars, which received 55 votes on the first ballot; Chargers, 26; Road Runners, 30; Sabers, 20; Sonics, 10; Stars, 13; Superchargers, 10; and Supersonics, 37.

Patriots received 239 votes, Red Raiders, 178, to lead the first ballot.

In the second ballot, All

Stars received 50 votes; Patriots, 281; Red Raiders, 175; and Supersonics, 62. There were 284 write-in ballots cast.

Following announcement of the new name, 30 or 40 students gathered briefly on the school grounds during their fourth-period lunch break and demonstrated dissatisfaction with the election results.

Mr. Stockard agreed to meet with three leaders of the group later in the afternoon and told the students that unless they returned to class, they would be suspended in accordance with the county school board policy.

The students returned to class, and Mr. Stockard later met with the student representatives. He reported that the talk involved a number of the issues revolving around the year-long controversy over the school's nickname.

School officials reported that attendance and activity at the school this morning was normal.

Several alternative nicknames were proposed, including: "Patriots," "Red Raiders," and "Supersonics." Students were asked to vote on it. Hundreds of students wrote in the name "Confederates" anyway. After three rounds of voting, because of these ineligible ballots, officials threw out the results and declared "Patriots" the winner.



Southern Alamance High still carries the Patriots nickname. Conveniently, they didn't have to change the school colors from the "Confeds" days. School officials just added an A for Alamance to the logo and called it a day.

And the school's racist origin story just faded from memory.

